4/11/73

Dear Mr. Fraser,

The ways you spend time and then apologize for it delights me! And I do appreciate it. It makes it possible for me to undertake more, for myself and for your students. The scheduling as of now is easy because you misunderstood - I have no lawyer, I seek one. So, let me explain and make some suggestions. Feel free to have your own, including one negative one at least.

Something I always forget and you will need is my Social Security Number: 577-36-7290.

I will want to make as much use of the time as I can, for legal and for literary purposes. So, I will leave here on a Sunday and will be in the area whatever week you select. That of 4/31 I can't, but the weeks beginning May 6 or 13 are fine. I'll stay with friends in the metropolitan area and then go out to Madison whenever you'd like.

You seem to prefer a Tuesday or a Wednesday. Either suits me. If there is no difference to you, it is possible Tuesday, earlier in the week, might hold some advantage for me. If Wednesday is better for you, make it a Wednesday.

Either afternoon or evening suits me. Would you like to make it both? I don't think I'll wear out. What I have in mind is that you might like an afternoon, maybe a late-afternoon, seminar? In the past, I have found that both faculty and students seem to like these. I've had them for faculty alone in some places, where the history/government faculties have been interested. More often the faculty arranged them for the students, some faculty members sometimes sitting in. Frankly, I have found the bright young people stimulating, so these have not been without a special kind of compensation for me. If you would like one, please feel free to arrange it, drawn from whichever colleges you'd prefer and on whatever basis you prefer. The one thing I would ask is that it be as informal as possible. I'd prefer to be sitting (I have a bad back and long standing gets uncomfortable) and to have the young people as comfortable as they can be. Any aspect of the subject is pretty grim, no matter how one puts it.

If you do not want a seminar, then an evening speech would be better for me. I could leave New York in the late afternoon, be there suppertime and ready at whatever hour you select.

I will not need a place to saty overnight unless the speech runs late or you'd like a bull-session afterward. This depends on the interest of the students. On several campuses they have been the most exciting aspect of my appearances. It has been long enough since my last college appearance that I would not want to estimate interest today. Maybe "Watergate" has raised it recently. As of now we can leave this open. You can decide when you see the reaction if it would be worthwhile. From the past I'd say that where the level of political consciousness is high and where there are enough government or history majors, these are worthwhile. This is not a left-right question, so what the political feelings are is irrelevant. All that counts is interest.

It is really because I appreciate the effort you and the student body president have made that I offer this. I do appreciate it because it means I can spend the week in New York if I have to.

I will be spending some nights with a friend who is interested in the subject, an uneducated man who is a waiter. If you have no objection, he may want to come out there. If he does and there is nothing after the speech, I'd probably go back to Staten Island with him. If I stay, don't worry about the accomodations. Often in the past I've not used the university's quarters and have stayed with students at their pads because they wanted it. Considering that I'm older than the fathers of most (I was 60 three days ago) I've found this flattering, the one problem being their desire to prolong the bull-sessions all night.

You say nothing about the topic. I can talk about all the major political assassinations but I've investigated those of John Kennedy and Martin Luther King most. I'd prefer sticking to them. If it meets with your approval and you have nothing else in mind, I would recommend that I do this in the context of the integrity of our society. That is what is involved in every political assassination, as I see it, and that certainly is what is

at the crux where the official investigations leave substantial doubts. I think this is true also of the book end, of publishing and non-publishing histories. This subject began as a shibboleth. It is true of major-media treatment, too. I could include, if you think it would interest, my use of the Freedom of Information law. I have used it extensively and successfully to get suppressed information. Only the various Nader groups have used it more. Using the law is one way of making society work and making government responsive and responsible. I can also work in a few illustrations of official transgressions, spying on me, intercepting my baggage, etc. Treatment of the integrity of government and of society is one thing I've found crosses all political lines and beliefs among young people.

But, if you prefer, we can pick specific, factual aspects and open with them. My experience has been that there is no end to questions from the audience and it is not possible to cover the subject fully, so it is most satisfying to the audience to let them exert some control over what they hear. This they can do by asking what they want to know. You can make up your mind on this or change it in the last minute. All we need is a title for your publicity. A catchy one attracts more attention and interest. As long as it is responsible, I can talk to it. How would you like Assassinations: The New Politics? I don't think Assassinations and the Integrity of Society is grabbing. In any event, title it as you'd like. You know your young people better than I do.

If you want a seminar and have an 8mm projector, I can bring a copy of the Zapruder film. If you show it to a large, public audience there might be a hassle. It is LIFE's private property, not the people's evidence. I have a bootleg copy. The film is as awful to look at as it is fascinating. I'm not apprehensive about the hassle for myself, but the school might find it unwelcome. There should be no problem with a private showing. It might be of special interest to pre-law (or law) students.

Your public relations people or you if you make an announcement might want to know a little about me. I began as a newspaper and magazine correspondent, was a Senate investigator, was in the O.S.S. during World War II, did what is known as "investigative reporting" among other things, including farming, before I wrote and ultimately published the first book on the Warren Commission. To date five of my books on assassinations have been printed.

Once you decide what you would like to do, I'd appreciate knowing as soon as possible. I am expecting to hear from the last lawyer to whom I wrote and I'd like to do a little planning

Please, do feel free to make whatever arrangements you want, don't be afraid of imposing on me, but don't feel that you must do anything special. One of the few promising things I've found in recent years is the sincerity and concern of so many very decent young people. I have found their spirit and genuineness rather rejuvenating. If you or they want more of me than the speech, I will find this refreshing contact with them adequate compensation for it.

Best regards,